



Thursday, July 22, 2010

Athletes medal during national games

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Special Olympics Indiana athletes Jane Padgett, 39, of Sheridan and Patrick Knollman, 20, of Carmel, were among the first athletes to medal at the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Neb. during day two of competition.

Padgett was part of the four-person traditional bocce team that earned the first of Team Indiana's medals, taking silver after a series of three close games against Team Utah in the Cook Pavilion on the campus of the University of Nebraska.

"Our team played really well," said bocce coach Monna Van Skyock of Selma, Ind. "They were competitive against Utah and played consistently well, but the competition was fierce."



Submitted photo by Pat Radigan, UNL Patrick Knollman of Carmel successfully bench pressed 143 pounds at the USA National Games Tuesday.

Team Indiana beat Utah in the first game of three Tuesday evening, but lost the second two games today, relinquishing the gold to Utah. Team Indiana's bocce team consists of Benadum along with Drew Metzger, 30, of Valparaiso, Tammy Kmiec, 44, of Crown Point and Jim Benadum, 39 from Muncie. As a part of four-person team competition, each athlete tosses one ball.

Later in the day, Knollman took gold in four events, lifting 203 pounds in the squat event, 143 pounds in the bench press and 242 pounds in the dead lift competition. He also received a gold medal for his overall performance, which totals the weight of his three best lifts.

"Patrick has been training hard for this competition," said powerlifting coach Bill Newby of Indianapolis. "He practiced three times a week leading up to Nationals and cut weight to be eligible for the 165-pound weight class. He certainly has a lot to be proud of."

Knollman has completed his competitions for the week. Padgett will participate in traditional doubles competition with Kmiec later during the games.

"These are the first of what will hopefully be many more great performances for Team Indiana," said Scott Mingle, director of operations for Special Olympics Indiana and head of delegation for Team Indiana. "We hope to bring home many more medals."

The 2010 USA National Games, held July 18-23 at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, is the largest sporting event held in the history of Nebraska featuring competition in 13 different sports by 3,000 athletes from 50 states. The Games are also expected to include 1,000 coaches and official delegates, 15,000 family members and friends, 8,000 volunteers and 30,000 spectators.

Special Olympics USA National Games events are held every four years, with the inaugural event held in 2006 at the Iowa State University in Ames. Representatives of Team Indiana are selected based upon performance in state and regional competition. To learn more or to volunteer, visit www.2010specialolympics.org.

Special Olympics Indiana is a not-for-profit organization that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in more than 20 Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, reaching more than 10,000 athletes across Indiana. The organization receives no federal- or state-appropriated funds, is not a United Way agency and relies entirely on corporate, civic and individual donations. For more information, call 328-2000 or visit www.soindiana.org.

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